

**Louisiana Association of School Executives
Louisiana Association of School Superintendents**

**P. O. Box 40217
Baton Rouge, LA. 70835-0217
(225)791-0365**

July 14, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Louisiana Association of School Executives to encourage the Commission to grant approval to the pending merger between AT&T and T-Mobile USA. The transaction will result in a massive expansion of 4G mobile broadband connectivity across the country, with a particularly significant impact on rural areas. Because of the numerous ways in which the education system benefits from broadband technology, it is essential that everything possible be done to ensure that schools, students, and parents in every part of the state have access to it.

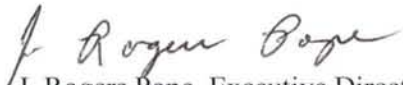
Broadband Internet has the ability to enhance the educational process in ways that we could not have imagined until recent years. Access enriches the students' ability to learn both in the classroom and out in the world. The Internet provides infinite opportunity for students to expand on their studies and further their interests through research. It makes distance learning possible for those students who have extenuating circumstances and obligations that would otherwise prevent them from receiving their education. Broadband access also allows all parties involved in the education process to stay well connected. Parents and guardians are able to keep closer contact with teachers and administrators, as well as monitoring their child's performance, homework assignments, and school activities. This provides a tremendous opportunity for parents to support their child's education like never before.

Unfortunately, there are still a significant number of students in Louisiana that are unable to take full advantage of all the educational benefits broadband has to offer. Many households in rural areas do not have reliable broadband connection. However, constantly improving mobile broadband technologies are the potential to solve this problem. Should the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile be approved, then

97.3 percent of Americans will be reached by their 4G LTE mobile broadband network. This will likely provide almost all Louisianians with broadband Internet access.

I firmly believe that the merger will be overwhelmingly positive for the people of Louisiana. The impact of expanding broadband access to the residents of our rural areas cannot be stressed enough. Expanded broadband coverage will not only improve our education system, but it will help the overall well-being of the state. I strongly encourage you to approve the AT&T, T-Mobile merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Rogers Pope". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

J. Rogers Pope, Executive Director

Louisiana Association of School Executives

Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, Inc.

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